not be included in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution because the validity of the Act has been upheld by Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time. The employers have generally contested the Notifications issued under the Minimum Wages Act. However, recently the State Government of West Bengal have again made the suggestions for bringing the Minimum Wages Act under the 9th Schedule of the Constitution. The matter is again being examined in the Ministry.

Minimum wages for Agricultural Workers

2096. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2400 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st December, 1998 and state:

(a) the reasons for mentioning the 1982 old figure with regard to the minimum wages for unskilled agricultural workers as far as West Bengal is concerned and also mentionining child labour;

(b) whether the State Government of West Bengal has failed to supply the latest figure and there still exists child labour; and

(c) if not, the latest figure of minimum wages of agricultural workers in West Bengal and other States—highest to lowest serially?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The minimum rates of wages for agricultural workers were notified by the State Government of West Bengal in the year 1982, which provided for basic wages, rate of neutralisation for calculation of minimum wages and how minimum wage rates are to be revised with the change of consumer price index. With the rise in consumer price index, the variable dearness allowance was subsequently revised resulting in and increase in minimum rates of wages to Rs. 45.22 for adult and Rs. 34.06 for child (as given in the reply to Unstarred Question NO. 2400 on 21st Dec., 1998). As per the latest available information the minimum wages have been again revised on 8th October, 1998 and the present rates are Rs. 48.14 for adult and Rs. 36.07 for child with two principal meals. The child labour is not prohibited in agriculture and the notification issued by the State Government of West Bengal prescribes different rates of minimum wages for adult and child. A Statement giving latest available figures of minimum wages for agricultural workers, in different States/Union Terrirories is enclosed below.

Statement

Daily rates of minimum wages for agricultural workers fixed by different States/UTs under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

(As on 1.10.98)

Sl. No.	State/ UTs	Minimum wages for unskilled agricultural workers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 30.00 to Rs. 36.50 p.d. (According to Zones)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 35.60 to 37.60 p.d. (According to Areas)
3.	Assam	Rs. 1134.00 p.m.* without food, shelter and clothing Rs. 984.00 p.m. plus food, shelter and clothing.
4.	Bihar	Rs. 51.00 p.d.*
5.	Goa	Rs. 46.00 p.d.
6.	Gujarat	Rs. 34.00 p.d.
7.	Haryana	Rs. 63.51 p.d.* with meals or Rs. 67.51 p.d. without meals
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 26.00 p.d. Rs. 45.75 p.d.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 30.00 p.d.

Sl. No.	State/ UTs	Minimum wages for unskilled agricultural workers
10.	Karnataka	Rs. 26.00 p.d.
11.	Kerala	Rs. 30.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d. for hard work
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 38.50 p.d.*
13.	Maha-rashtra	Rs. 35.00 to Rs. 41.00 p.d. (According to Zones)
14.	Manipur	Rs. 47.65 p.d.* for Hill Areas Rs. 44.65 p.d. for other than the Hill Areas
15.	Meghalaya	Rs. 35.00 p.d.
16.	Mizoram	Rs. 45.00 p.d.
17.	Nagaland	Rs. 25.00 p.d.
18.	Orissa	Rs. 30.00 p.d.
19.	Punjab	Rs. 54.07 p.d.* with meals Rs. 60.62 p.d. without meals
20.	Rajasthan	Rs. 44.00 p.d.
21.	Sikkim	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 yet to be extended.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 29.00 p.d.
23.	Tripura	Rs. 32.00 p.d.
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 47.00 p.d. to Rs. 49.00 p.d.
25.	West Bengal	Rs. 48.14 p.d.* for Adult/Rs. 51.34 adult (without meals) Rs. 36.07 p.d. for Child (without meals) Rs. 38.73 child (As on 8.10.98) (with two principal meals)
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Rs. 37.00 p.d. (Andaman) Rs. 40.00 p.d. (Nicobar)
27.	Chandigarh	Rs. 52.09 p.d.* with meals or Rs. 60.15 p.d. without meal
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Rs. 40.00 p.d.
29.	Delhi	Rs. 74.50 p.d.*
30.	Daman & Diu	Rs. 35.00 p.d.
31.	Laksha-dweep	Rs. 30.00 p.d.
32.	Pondicherry	
	(i) Pondicherry Region	Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 22.00 p.d.
	(ii)Mahe Region	Rs. 30.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d. for hard work
	(iii)Yanam Region	Rs. 19.25 to Rs. 26.25 p.d.
	(iv) Karaikal	Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 22.00 p.d.

Note:— (1) The Minimum Wages also include the variable dearness allowance, wherever provided.

(2)* Indicate the provision of variable dearness allowance with the minimum rates of wage.

Loss of Mandays due to strikes, lockout etc.

2097. SHRI RAJ NATH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been done this year about lost mandays due to strikes and lockouts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has improved this year; and

(d) whether Government would give this information State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATHYA): (a) to